



ALA MOANA/KAKA'AKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 11

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006

MAKIKI CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CALL TO ORDER: Chair John Breinich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Breinich, Jennifer Gerard, Nancy Hedlund, Larry Hurst, Marilyn Michaels.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joyce Kurtz, Dyane Sih (excused).

GUESTS: Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's office), Dr. Chiyome Fukino (Governor's Representative), Senator Carol Fukunaga, Senator Gordon Trimble, Representative Bev Harbin, Representative Anne Stevens, Captain Greg Ikeda (HFD), Officer Elton Roberson, Sgt. Thomas Reyes and Lt. Curtiss Loui (HPD), Howard Tanaka (BWS), Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Mike Polovcin (Hawai'i Convention Center), Michelle Matson (Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board), Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board), Tom Brower (Waikiki Neighborhood Board), Gregg Takayama (UH School of Medicine), Keith Mattson (UH), Chris Deuchar (USPD), Dr. Jim Gains (PacRBL), Ann Chung and Lisa Gibson (HS&TC), Brian Kudo and Glenn Murata (Matsunaga & Associates Architects), Alice Bratton, Jack Hamada, James Loo, Dexter Okada, Florence Stevens, Lainie Tamashiro, M. Townsend, Steve J. Rodrigues (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT: Captain Greg Ikeda reported for the month of April, the Pawaa Fire Station responded to 11 fires, 77 medical emergencies, 16 search and rescues, and 21 miscellaneous calls.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT: Sgt. Thomas Reyes reported the statistics for the months of April and March were: 3/8 robberies; 11/20 burglaries; 55/94 UEMV (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle); 22/27 auto thefts; 4/5 aggravated assaults; 47/46 simple assaults; 203/248 motor vehicle collisions; 37/24 DUI; 9/7 sex assault; 11/6 family offenses; 48/67 drug offenses, 11/12 graffiti.

A resident had two concerns: 1) A car break-in at 701 Pensacola Street; 2) Illegal left turn at Kapiolani Boulevard and Sheridan Street. Sgt. Reyes said detectives and Criminal Investigation Division (CID) are aware of the car break-ins. Officer Elton Roberson stated officers are addressing the concern on Sheridan Street. An arrest was made for DUI.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Howard Tanaka reported: 1) There were no water main breaks in April and none thus far in May. 2) Kapiolani Boulevard Water and Sewer Improvement Project – execution of the construction contract documents is being held up until the Memorandum of Agreement between BWS and Department of Environmental Services is signed, which should occur with the week. The tentative date for the Notice to Proceed is July 10 with on-site construction, which is essentially the probing for existing utilities to start in mid-August. BWS will be scheduling a public informational meeting for the end of June along with mailings and newspaper advertisements. A hotline as well the status of the project will be posted on BWS' website. 3) After 11 years of deferring scheduled rate increases, the Board approved a revised rate schedule increase on May 15. In order to minimize the impact on customers, BWS has delayed the implementation of the 13% increase from July 1 to October 1. The average BWS single-family customer using 13,000 gallons per month will see an additional \$3.23 in their water bill every month.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Michaels asked Tanaka to notify Board members by mail when the public informational meeting for the Kapiolani Boulevard Water and Sewer Improvement Project will be held.
- 2) Hedlund inquired if there is enough water for O'ahu consumers. Tanaka answered 92% of the island's water comes from aquifers. BWS is looking at alternative sources. He will provide more information at July's meeting.



- 3) A resident asked about desalinization. Tanaka stated the pilot project between BWS, Campbell Estate and others has since been discontinued. BWS has started to build a desalinization plant at Honouliuli. More detailed studies will be available 2009-2010. Desalinization is more expensive than groundwater.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 25, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The Board approved the minutes with the following correction:

Page 3, under HCDA, concerns and comments, number one, after the first sentence, insert **“because we do not have all the information and details for review/approval in advance of the funding decision; and after notice of funding is required, there is an great pressure to approve regardless of details because NHI funds only the specific location in the application. A change in location causes proposal to have to be submitted all over again.”**

TREASURER’S REPORT: No report.

RESIDENTS’ CONCERNS:

Various Issues – A resident had a number of concerns: 1) The lights from Wal-Mart/Sam’s Club parking structure shines into nearby apartment units on Sheridan Street. 2) Delivery trucks for Wal-Mart/Sam’s Club that beep their horn at the receiving area. 3) Parking meters should be installed on Piikoi Street to get revenue for the City. 4) A traffic signal is needed at Sheridan and Makaloa Streets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND KEY ORGANIZATIONS:

CHAIR’S REPORT:

Filling of Vacancies (Two) in Subdistrict 1 – Chair Breinich asked if there were any residents willing to fill the vacancies in Subdistrict 1. There were no interested candidates.

Pacific Regional BioSafety Laboratory (PacRBL) – Dr. Jim Gaines stated the University of Hawai’i has received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to build a state-of-the-art biosafety laboratory where researchers would work and develop rapid and more accurate diagnostic tests, drugs and vaccines for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. Researchers at the facility will focus on disease agents of the Asia-Pacific region that may be introduced to Hawai’i and the United States by travelers. The goal is to protect the health and safety of people in Hawai’i and elsewhere through early detection and rapid response to diseases, such as influenza, antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis, SARS, dengue and unknown diseases, that might be introduced naturally or intentionally. The proposed PacRBL will be a Level 3 Regional BioSafety Laboratory. Level 3 laboratories are used to study agents that may potentially cause lethal infection, but which may be transmitted through the air. Researchers perform laboratory manipulations in biosafety cabinets in rooms that are under negative pressure. Other safety features include clothing decontamination, sealed windows and specialized filtered ventilation systems. The PacRBL facility would be a three-story 38,403 square feet building, with a footprint of about 16,000 square feet. The building would be located within the JABSOM Phase II area in the current surface parking lot makai of the Medical Education Building in Kakaako. The PacRBL would be set back 100 feet from pedestrian walkways. The amount of the federal grant for an NIH Regional BioSafety Laboratory in Hawai’i is \$25 million. There is a State matching funds requirement of 12.5 million, which must be approved by the Legislature. The project would make Hawai’i a safer place to live and boost economic development.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Breinich asked the timeline for the project. Gaines answered it depends when they hear from NIH. They must be operational by 2010. It takes four to five years to make the lab functional. The lab will be built to strict federal and national standards. NIH will be involved in every aspect. Funding has been approved.
- 2) Hedlund had concerns about safety. Gaines stated these labs have been around a long time and they have never experienced any problems. It will be a BSL 3 and not BSL 4 (Level 4 laboratories are used to study agents that pose a high risk of life-threatening disease for which no vaccine or therapy is available and the natural history is not fully understood). The facility is not designed for BSL 4.

- 3) Chair Breinich mentioned this is the first presentation for this project. There will be many more opportunities for public input.
- 4) Ann Chung of HS&TC, said she is the community liaison for the project. If anyone has any questions, please contact her at achung@hawaii.scitechcouncil.org. As soon as they receive word from NIH, they will hold a community meeting. A meeting will be held this Thursday with community leaders.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Chair Breinich announced Bob Frye of Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will be retiring on July 1. The Board sends its best wishes and congratulation on an excellent job at Sheridan Community Park.

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE: Jennifer Gerard

Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) – Chair Breinich said Daniel Dinell sent his regrets, along with a written report. Hedlund reported that HCDA's report includes a description of the proposed Advisory Committee. This proposal can be accessed through a link in the minutes of May 3 HCDA meeting on their website, www.hcdaweb.org. The proposal for this committee is in response to HCR 30, a resolution passed by the Legislature in the 2006 session. It was noted that although the resolution recommends a community advisory committee for future development of Kakaako Makai, the HCDA has restricted the Committee's advisement only to the footprint of the February 2005 Request for Proposal (RFP). Chair Breinich noted that HCDA has not voted to establish a committee yet. He asked if any Board member is interested in sitting on the committee. Hedlund volunteered. Chair Breinich said it's HCDA choice who they put on the committee. He explained to Hedlund that she is there on behalf of the Board, but not speaking for the Board.

Victoria Ward – No report or representative was available.

NCR Building – Brian Kudo and Glenn Murata of Masunaga & Associates Architects, gave a brief synopsis of the project. The project is a renovation and rehabilitation of the existing NCR Building at 700 Kapiolani Boulevard (corner of Kapiolani and Cooke). The existing structure will remain and be totally overhauled, renovated and added onto. The building will be a Mixed Use - four floors of residences (47 units of 1-2 bedrooms) above the ground floor; commercial (7,000 square feet) and parking lot (79 parking stalls) on the ground level design promoting more pedestrian activities on Kapiolani Boulevard. HCDA requires public facilities (i.e. park), but the developer has elected to pay a fee instead since space is so limited. The building height is limited to 45 feet, but they are requesting to build to 60 feet to match the existing buildings.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Breinich asked the timeline for the project. Kudo answered HCDA will hold a public hearing the first week of July. Construction should begin January 2007.
- 2) Hedlund and Hurst had concerns regarding the height of the building. Kudo stated they could develop the project at 45 feet, however it wouldn't be a superior design.
- 3) Michelle Matson asked to leave the color of the building neutral and not paint it red as drawings rendered.
- 4) In response to Michaels regarding fees, Kudo answered the fees for not building a park will be based on the fair market value of park land.
- 5) Kudo stated HCDA does require affordable housing with high-rise development, but this development limits the amount you are allowed to build on a parcel.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION – Michaels stated: 1) Dedicated Left-Turn Lane to Ala Moana Boulevard when exiting Ala Moana Beach Park at Kamakee Street – she looked into the issue. A brief explanation was given on this issue. Chair Breinich will follow-up with the City if a study is being done. 2) DTS would make a presentation to the Board if there were more bus stop changes affecting Ala Moana. There was an article in the newspaper regarding changes to King and Beretania Streets.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP) – Pat Lee circulated a brochure titled “Honolulu On The Move”, an update on the HHCTCP. In addition, he stated the project consultants are still evaluating the four alternatives: a) no build; b) Transportation System Management; c) Managed Lane; and d) Fixed Guideway. A new newsletter will be available next month. For more information, visit www.honolulutransit.org. He requested to make a full presentation at July’s meeting.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY/ LIQUOR AND ADULT ESTABLISHMENTS – Hurst asked to defer his proposed resolution to the Liquor Commission (which he distributed) to July’s meeting. He will send the Commission’s rules (i.e. Rule 32, 45-2, 62, 78) to the Board members.

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – No report.

PARKS & WATERWAYS – Hedlund stated she’s been exploring if there are any citizens advisory group for parks in this area. Chair Breinich said there isn’t any group (that he’s aware of). Michelle Matson mentioned the City’s Managing Director (MD) established a citizen advisory group for Kapiolani Park. She suggested the Board contact the MD about doing something similar for Ala Moana Beach Park.

Michaels had the following comments: 1) Residents living near Ala Moana Beach Park have complaints regarding loudspeakers being used by the organizers of the Triathlon at 4:00 a.m. 2) There was lots of trash along the route of the Hotel Industry Walk. 3) Ala Moana Beach Park closure is a good thing.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Governor’s Representative – Dr. Chiyome Fukino made the “Governor’s Update” available on the sign-in table. In addition, she stated she sits on the Policy Committee and suggested now is the time to send comments to the Governor regarding bills that should be signed/vetoed.

Senator Carol Fukunaga – Senator Fukunaga circulated her monthly report and reported the Governor just signed Act 118 (HB 970 CD1) which appropriates emergency funds for the damage and destruction caused by the heavy rains and flooding in February and March 2006.

Senator Gordon Trimble – Senator Trimble stated: 1) He attended a briefing on the pandemic, avian flu. If the flu broke out, 40% of the workforce wouldn’t show up and the schools would be closed. It is suggested to have an emergency kit with a three to five day supply of food and water. 2) He has heard the RBL presentation three times and each time it has been different. It doesn’t make sense to put a biosafety laboratory in a tsunami flood zone. 3) Of the \$660 million surplus, less than 6% is going back to residents. Residents would see the money in two years.

Representative Bev Harbin – Representative Harbin said she’s not too happy with Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate (KSBE) late entry into the development of Kakaako Makai. She will be discussing this issue with KSBE. The Governor is leery of KSBE.

Hedlund mentioned she spoke to KSBE earlier this year and they indicated that they wouldn’t build residential units at Kakaako Makai. Representative Harbin noted that KSBE never mentioned development of Kakaako Makai. Kakaako Improvement Association (KIA) is on record supporting no residential development on state land. KSBE has sat in on KIA’s meetings.

Representative Scott Saiki – Senator Fukunaga circulated Representative Saiki’s monthly report.

Representative Anne Stevens – Representative Stevens circulated her monthly report and reported: 1) She will be sending a letter to the Governor to sign HB 211, relating to Kakaako Makai. It was totally a grass-roots effort to stop development of Kakaako Makai. She doesn’t think the Governor will veto the bill. 2) Her office participated in AARP’s event regarding pedestrian safety. They assessed various intersections and witnessed various types of behaviors. Hawaii’s AARP was the first to set-up such an event.

Hurst suggested AARP monitor King and Pensacola Streets. It’s a dangerous intersection.

Mayor's Representative – Chair Breinich said both Donna Kiyosaki and Joan Manke sent their regrets. Manke followed-up on last month's concerns: 1) DTS has advised that an additional red arrow is not needed at King and Pensacola Streets. DTS has rechecked the intersection and has determined that drivers are able to see the red left turn arrow from both lanes. To help clear up any questions and/or confusion, DTS will change the green ball light to a green straight arrow to indicate to drivers that they cannot make a left turn. HPD will be asked to monitor this intersection and enforce the left on green arrow only restriction. 2) The Managing Director's office suggests that the homeless summit that is being referred to is a group that was convened by the Governor's office in April. The City was a participant. For further information, please contact the Governor's office for a summary or for a copy of the minutes.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Neighborhood Assistant Steve J. Rodrigues circulated Councilmember Kobayashi's monthly report

Councilmember Rod Tam – Shawn Hamamoto circulated Councilmember Tam's monthly report and was available for questions.

ADJOURNMENT: By consensus, the Board adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by:

Steve J. Rodrigues,
Neighborhood Assistant